

Abstract

Ceramics comprising (i) at least one of Nb₂O₅ or Ta₂O₅ and (ii) at least two of (a) Al₂O₃, (b) Y₂O₃, or (c) at least one of ZrO₂ or HfO₂. Embodiments of ceramics according to the present invention can be made, formed as, or converted into optical waveguides, 5 glass beads, articles (e.g., plates), fibers, particles (e.g., abrasive particles), and thin coatings.